

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 049844  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR  
NEA/INS:DKUX  
AID/ASIA:PMBOU  
PM/SAS:DKEENE  
S/S: MR. SEBASTIA

-----071922Z 060237 /43

R 071727Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

S E C R E T STATE 049844

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: GSL REQUEST FOR TWO BELL CIVILIAN MODEL HELI-  
COPTERS

REF: COLOMBO 689

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED GSL REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS AND CON-  
CLUDED THAT NO BASIS EXISTS UNDER PRESENT LEGISLATION TO  
PERMIT TYPE OF GIFT SOLICITED. DEPARTMENT ITSELF, OF COURSE,  
DOES NOT HAVE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PERMIT PUR-  
CHASE OF HELICOPTER OR SIMILAR EQUIPMENT. ON MILITARY SIDE,  
SUPPLY OF MATERIAL ON GRANT BASIS IS AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH  
AN IN-COUNTRY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) WHICH DOES  
NOT EXIST FOR SRI LANKA, AND WHOSE ESTABLISHMENT WOULD RE-  
QUIRE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION. IN FACT, CONGRESS HAS

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MANDATED THE PHASING OUT OF MAP ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS, SO  
THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THE PROGRAMMING OF HELICOPTERS  
ON A GRANT BASIS IS RULED OUT.

2. AID IS SIMILARLY CONSTRAINED IN SUPPLYING HELICOPTERS.  
GSL'S REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS CLEARLY FALLS BEYOND SCOPE OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES,

THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH GRANT COMMODITY ASSISTANCE FOR SRI

LANKA IS AUTHORIZED UNDER AID'S LEGISLATIVE MANDATE.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE SHOULD INFORM GSL THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO MRS. BANDARANAIKE'S CONCERN WITH HELICOPTER SECURITY FACTOR, BUT THAT THE USG LACKS THE LEGISLATIVE AND FUNDING AUTHORITY TO MAKE A GRANT OF THE HELICOPTERS REQUESTED, EITHER BY WAY OF DRAWING FROM INVENTORIES OR IN PURCHASING DIRECTLY FROM AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER. YOU MAY DRAW ON POINTS IN PARAS ABOVE BUT SHOULD DISCOURAGE ANY GSL VIEW THAT IF REQUEST WERE REPHRASED OR HELICOPTER END-USE REDEFINED USG WOULD BE MORE RECEPTIVE. EMBASSY MAY ADD THAT WE WISH TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THESE LIMITATIONS AND ARE WILLING TO ASSIST IN PUTTING GSL IN CONTACT WITH HELICOPTER LEASING FIRMS (WHICH MAY BE EASIER SHORT-TERM SOLUTION TO PROBLEM RAISED BY GSL) BUT STRESS THAT FUNDING FOR SERVICES BE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY WITH THE LEASING FIRM ON COMMERCIAL BASIS BY THE GSL.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROCUREMENT, HELICOPTERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** GSL REQUEST FOR TWO BELL CIVILIAN MODEL HELI- COPTERS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CE  
**To:** COLOMBO  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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